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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 20 June 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the forcible eviction and resettlement of Serbs and Montenegrins in Albania.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 104 (c) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/49/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on 17 June 1994

The Yugoslav public is concerned over the information that Albanian authorities attempted to forcibly evict the members of the Serb and Montenegrin minority - Vracani and Podgoricani - from the villages of Stari and Mladi Boric in which they have lived from time immemorial. According to the available information, Albanian authorities tried to take over their houses and land by force and to resettle them in other localities.

Of particular concern is the fact that the Albanian Police used force in this attempt, injuring a number of persons, women and children among them. This act provoked wide concern among the members of the Serb and Montenegrin minority and Goranci as yet another piece of evidence of the escalation, pressure and lack of readiness of Albanian authorities to recognize and respect the inalienable rights of national minorities in their territory.

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs points out with concern the fact that Albania has been forcibly resettling the members of the Serb and Montenegrin minority under the pretext of a new administrative division of the State territory, the aim of which is to settle Albanians from the regions of Dukadjin and Malessia on the property of Serbs, Montenegrins and Goranci. This is a calculated policy, aimed at breaking up the ethnic compactness of Serbs, Montenegrins and Goranci in Albania, especially in the territory towards the Yugoslav-Albanian border, at stepping up physical and psychological pressure on them and accelerating in that way their systematic assimilation.

By such behaviour Albanian authorities flagrantly violate human and civic rights - the right to physical integrity, free choice of place of residence and the inviolability of personal and private property - which is in flagrant contravention of Albania's commitments as a State Member of the United Nations and member of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls on Albanian authorities to stop the pressure against the members of the Serb and Montenegrin national minority and against Goranci and to desist from the plan on the forcible resettlement of Vracani and Podgoricani. The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs expects Albania to respect the rights of the members of the Serb and Montenegrin national minority in accordance with its obligations under the relevant documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.